

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 19, 21, and 22, canceled Claims 2-4 and 24-27, and added new Claim 28 and therefore, upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1, 5-23, and 28 are pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the application and a timely Notice of Allowance.

Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but Examiner indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claims 2-4, as suggested by Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 5-17 are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, the following remarks regarding distinctions over the prior art do not apply to the just-described claims.

Claims 19-23 were objected to due to informalities and Applicants have amended Claim 19 to clarify this claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection of Claims 19-23 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 24, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over

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Japanese Application Patent (JP 06-301096) to Shinpo Ichihiro [herein referred to as "Shinpo"] in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,589,901 to Means [herein referred to as "Means"] and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,460 to Tsuruta et al. [herein referred to as "Tsuruta"]

Shinpo discloses a video camera with an adapter for mechanically attaching a camera so that a still photo may be taken and stored on the camera at the same time and in the same direction as the video camera that is separately recording video images. Thus, it should be understood that Shinpo simply discloses a mechanical coupling of two cameras, which continue to operate independent of one another. In contrast, in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention, a camera system is disclosed having an infrared camera that is electrically and mechanically coupled via an interface device to a camcorder such that the camcorder selectively records the video images of the camcorder or the video images from the infrared camera.

Examiner notes several additional deficiencies of Shinpo and cites Means and Tsuruta in an attempt to overcome these deficiencies. However, Means simply discloses an infrared camera mounted on a helicopter, while Tsuruta simply discloses a camera showing a hot shoe socket to power a lighting

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apparatus, which is the known intended purpose for the hot shoe socket.

Consequently, Shinpo alone or in combination with Means and Tsuruta fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations as required by MPEP § 706.02(j). As noted above, Shinpo simply discloses a mechanical coupling of two cameras, which continue to operate independent of one another. Thus, for example, Shinpo, Means, and Tsuruta fail to teach or suggest "an interface device that mechanically and electrically connects said camera to said camcorder such that the camcorder selectively records the video images in the visible or non-visible electromagnetic spectrum, with power provided from the camcorder to the camera via the hot shoe" as recited in Claim 19. Furthermore, Applicants have obtained a certain level of commercial success with sales of products based on embodiments of the present invention, which is submitted under MPEP § 2144.08 as rebuttal evidence to the Examiner's assertion of obviousness.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 patentably distinguishes over Shinpo in view of Means and Tsuruta and that corresponding dependent claims are also distinguishable for at least the same reasons. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are also allowable for the reasons noted previously. Claims 24 and 27 have been canceled. Therefore,

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Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 1-3, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 24, and 27 be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 15, 16, 21-23, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Shinpo in view of Means and Tsuruta and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,864,911 to Zhang et al. [herein referred to as "Zhang"].

As noted above, Shinpo simply discloses a mechanical coupling of two cameras, which continue to operate independent of one another. Examiner further cites Zhang as disclosing the use of a communication protocol to connect two digital cameras. However, Zhang fails to cure the deficiencies noted above for Shinpo, Means, and Tsuruta.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 19 patentably distinguishes over Shinpo in view of Means and Tsuruta and Zhang and that corresponding dependent claims are also distinguishable for at least the same reasons. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are also allowable for the reasons noted previously. Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 7, 15, 16, 21-23, 25, and 26 be withdrawn.

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Applicants have added new Claim 28, which is dependent upon Claim 19. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added and that Claim 28 is in proper form for allowance and distinguishable for at least the same reasons as discussed for Claim 19.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 5-23, and 28 are in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested and a timely Notice of Allowance is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the application, please call the undersigned at (949) 752-7040.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Fax No. 571-273-8300 on the date stated below.

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October 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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